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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JONATHAN SCHMIDT PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED MURDER

TOLEDO, Ohio – Jonathan Schmidt, 36, of Sylvania, Ohio, pleaded guilty to aggravated murder and aggravated burglary in case CR2026-00544 for the April 2026 murder of his mother-in-law, Marcia Van Druten, 68.

On April 15, 2026, Schmidt broke into the Sylvania home of his in-laws and fatally beat Van Druten. During the initial investigation, officers from the Sylvania Police Department spoke with Schmidt's parents at their home on a nearby street. While officers were there, Schmidt called his father and admitted to severely beating Van Druten. An officer's body-worn camera recorded the conversation. Deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office took Schmidt into custody that night at the LaSalle Bar in LaSalle, Mich.

Sylvania Police Department detectives obtained surveillance video from the Lowe's in Sylvania showing Schmidt purchasing three items that investigators later found at the crime scene. Detectives also used Flock camera footage to reconstruct Schmidt's movements on the day of the murder. Investigators found a written plan for the murder in the notes section of Schmidt's phone. The note was last updated on March 28, 2026, more than two weeks before Van Druten's death.

"Digital evidence played an important role in this case, helping investigators piece together the events leading up to the murder," Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney Julia R. Bates said. "We appreciate the thorough work of the Sylvania Police Department, Metroparks Toledo Rangers and Monroe County Sheriff's Office in Michigan. While this guilty plea cannot undo what happened, it brings accountability for the death of Marcia Van Druten. Our thoughts remain with her family and loved ones."

Judge Michael R. Goulding will determine Schmidt's sentence during a hearing on Nov. 23, 2026, at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 4.

Chief of Special Units Michael J. Loisel and Assistant Prosecutor Christopher L. Brown led the case for the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office.

About the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office
The Lucas County Prosecutor's Office pursues justice, safeguards our community and advocates for victims. We balance accountability with individual rights, partnering with law enforcement to ensure public safety and fair governance. We are committed to integrity, outreach and justice for all.

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